

TOPIC: USAAW

Intro:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has kicked off an annual effort to make more Americans aware of a global threat concerning a well-known category of drugs.

U-S Antibiotic Awareness Week runs now through November 24th... with an important health message about antibiotics... antifungals... and the global need to combat antimicrobial resistance.

SCRIPT:

They are life-saving medicines... used to fight familiar infections like strep throat, infections caused by *E. coli* and Tuberculosis.

Experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say antibiotics are some of the most powerful drugs the world has for treating bacterial infections.

But the misuse of antibiotics as well as antifungals is leading to the development and spread of antimicrobial resistance.

That's when germs like bacteria or fungi develop the ability to defeat the drugs designed to kill them. The infections caused by resistant organisms are difficult, sometimes impossible, to treat.

Michael Craig/Director, CDC's Antimicrobial Resistance Coordination and Strategy Unit:

"Antibiotic medicines and antifungal medicines are lifesaving. They can truly take someone from death's door and save their life. What we need to make sure we do though is that we use them appropriately when they are needed. If we don't use them appropriately, or we use them at times when they're not needed, we run the risk of resistance happening or other things happening that will lead to adverse events in those patients."

VIDEO CLIP LINK: [Michael Craig - risk of resistance](#)

According to the agency, more than 2-point-8 million antimicrobial-resistant infections occur in the U-S each year...

More than 35-thousand people die.

Right now, The C-D-C is undertaking a national observance to save lives.

U-S Antibiotic Awareness Week spotlights appropriate antibiotic and antifungal use as well as ways to combat the spread of antimicrobial resistance... also known as A-R.

Fernanda Lessa/Chief, CDC's International Infection Control Branch:

"Antimicrobial resistance has long threatened the advances of modern medicine and the problem in one country is a problem across all other countries. CDC has recognized antimicrobial resistance to be a problem globally."

VIDEO CLIP LINK: [Fernanda Lessa - problem globally](#)

The C-D-C says it is a leader in the effort to combat antimicrobial resistance globally...

investing in more than 500 innovative projects in more than 50 countries through its

Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions Initiative... and partnering with hundreds of organizations including other federal agencies, state, and local health departments to share ways to fight A-R and ensure appropriate use of antibiotics and antifungals so they remain useful treatments.

Michael Craig/Director, CDC's Antimicrobial Resistance Coordination and Strategy Unit:

"We need to protect those antibiotics and antifungals so that they last as long as possible and that we have them to protect as many people as possible."

VIDEO CLIP LINK: [Michael Craig - risk of resistance](#)

While the threat of antimicrobial resistance remains... antibiotics remain a powerful tool. The C-D-C wants Americans to be aware of the threat and encourage everyone to talk to a healthcare provider first and only use antibiotics when they are needed.

Dr. Sarah Kabbani/Deputy Director, Office of Antibiotic Stewardship:

"Anytime an antibiotic is used it can lead to the development of antimicrobial resistance however when antibiotics are needed the benefits outweigh the risk of antimicrobial resistance."

VIDEO CLIP LINK: [Sarah Kabbani - benefits outweigh risks](#)

Tag:

To learn more about U-S-A-A-W, antimicrobial resistance and what you can do to protect yourself—you can go to C-D-C-dot-gov-slash-drug resistance-slash-U-S-A-A-W.